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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/521,931	07/19/2005	Helmut Theiler	14603-009US1/P2002,0626	2109
26161	7590	11/26/2007	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON PC			AMRANY, ADI	
P.O. BOX 1022			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			2836	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
11/26/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/521,931	THEILER, HELMUT	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Adi Amrany	2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 October 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 January 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/24/05, 6/13/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because the preliminary drawing amendments made to the drawings contain hand drawn component labels. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Jain (US 6,577,517).

With respect to claim 1, Jain discloses a circuit array for controlling operation of two loads that operate with a rectified AC voltage (fig 3; col. 2-3), the circuit array comprising:

a semiconductor switch (320) on a circuit path that includes the two loads (connected to outputs 110, 122); and a control unit (302-320) to generate a switch control signal (312) that controls the switch; wherein the control unit comprises:

a phase detection device (306) to detect whether a phase of the AC voltage is positive or negative and to output a detection signal (A1, B1) that is based on whether the phase is positive or negative; and
a logic unit (310, 320) to generate the switch control signal based on load control signals (324) and the detection signal (308).

With respect to claim 2, Jain discloses the control unit comprises a time control circuit (feedback) for generating one of the load control signals (324) at a predetermined time.

With respect to claim 3, Jain discloses the control unit comprises a sensor circuit (feedback) for generating one of the load control signals (324) in response to a sensed

condition. The predetermined time for generating the load control signal of claim 2 is interpreted as the time of detecting the sensed condition of claim 3.

With respect to claim 5, Jain discloses the circuit array is part of an IC (col. 2, lines 7-8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4 and 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jain.

With respect to claim 4, Jain discloses that the logic unit inputs multiple signals (312, 324) to produce the switching signal for the PWM. It would be obvious to one skilled in the art that the Jain logic unit comprises a multiplexer, since it is known in the art to use a multiplexer to reduce the number of transmission lines in a circuit. Jain discloses that the logic unit combines the load control signals (324) and the detection signal (312) in order to determine when to output the switch control signal (fig 4; col. 2, lines 64-67).

With respect to claim 6, Jain discloses an electronic device (fig 3; col. 2-3) comprising:

an input having leads to receive AC voltage (102);

a circuit array for controlling a switch (320) to apply voltage to two loads (110, 122) based on whether a phase of the AC voltage is positive or negative (312) and a load control signal (324);

a rectifier that is connected to the input and that provides the voltage to the loads (inherent, col. 1, lines 11-16), the voltage being generated from the AC voltage, wherein the rectifier comprises an open bridge circuit, and wherein the voltage comprises different half waves of the AC voltage that are applied to different loads (col. 2, lines 53-60).

At the time of the invention by applicant, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a second feedback signal, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art.

St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co., 193 USPQ 8 (CCPA 1977).

With respect to claims 7-11, Jain discloses the recited limitations, as discussed above in the rejections of claims 1-5, respectively.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See also Wathelet (US 4,777,380).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adi Amrany whose telephone number is (571) 272-0415. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, from 10am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on (571) 272-2800 x36. The fax phone

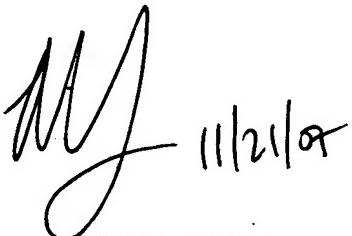
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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AA


MICHAEL SHERRY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800